***Statement***

*The monthly average price of Indian basket of crude oil for the period from April 2004 onwards*

| Month | Monthly Average Price ($/bbl) |
|---|---|
| April' 04 | 32.37 |
| May' 04 | 36.09 |
| June' 04 | 34.23 |
| July' 04 | 36.35 |
| August' 04 | 40.53 |
| September' 04 | 39.15 |
| October' 04 | 43.38 |
| November' 04 | 38.81 |
| December' 04 | 36 85 |
| January' 05 | 40.99 |
| February' 05 (upto 24th Feb) | 42.18 |

**Introduction of Euro-II and Euro-III Fuels**

100. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various oil companies in the country have been asked to adhere to April, 2005 for introduction of Euro-II and III fuels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these companies are facing some operational problems and may have to seek extension of the fixed deadline;

(c) if so, the details of any fresh review undertaken recently to coordinate with the oil companies to help them resolve their genuine problem; and

(d) the details of fresh strategy drawn up, if any, to meet/revise the original deadline?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As per the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Government on 3.10.2003, the Oil Companies had been instructed to introduce Bharat Stage II/Euro III equivalent fuels in the country as per the

road map provided therein. They had planned various quality implementation project in the refineries to meet the revised fuel specifications. However, keeping in view the constraints faced by the oil industry, occasioned by certain unexpected and unforeseen problems, the Government is considering slight alterations in the programme of introduction of Bharat Stage-II/Euro-III equivalent fuels in the country. These will be notified shortly.

**Iran-India Gas Pipeline Project**

101. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a sealing of $ 49 billion LNG deal with Iran, India achieved another breakthrough in getting Bangladesh to agree on passing of Myanmar-India natural gas pipeline through its territory;

(b) whether India, Pakistan and Iran have agreed to prepare feasibility report in regard to the proposal of 18000 crore Iran-India gas pipeline project;

(c) if so, whether a high level delegation from Iranian Petroleum Ministry visited New Delhi during the month of January, 2005 to give proposal a concrete shape; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will be helpful for India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) India is pursuing import of natural gas both from Iran and Myanmar. Recently, an understanding has been reached with Iran to import 5 MMTPA of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), with a provision for later adding 2.5 MMTPA. Further discussions are on to import gas from Iran through a transnational pipeline transiting through Pakistan. Simultaneously, during trilateral discussions held with Myanmar and Bangladesh in Yangon during 12-13 January, 2005, Bangladesh has 'in principle' agreed to allow pipeline transit through its territory. At the first meeting of the Techno-Commercial Working Committee in Yangon on 24-25 February, a draft MoU was considered and initiated. The MoU is expected to be signed shortly at Dhaka by the Ministers of three countries concerned. The pipeline through Bangladesh is not related to the pipeline through Pakistan.